

VILLAGE OF WAITE HILL
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April 2, 2012

Dear Village Resident,

Hello and welcome to Spring. Many things have taken place in the Village over the past month, and this letter will report on those developments.

Village Website Goes LIVE!

Check out our new Village website at www.waitehilloh.gov. We have now been live for about a week and have worked out (we hope) many of the bugs. We are proud to have a place where residents and others can get instant access to a wide variety of matters concerning the Village. We encourage you to go to the site and peruse its content, and we invite any and all suggestions for improvement. Just e-mail us – you will find our e-mail addresses as you navigate the site.

Our long-term plan is that over time the website will become our primary means of communication with residents and replace the traditional mailbox deliveries. To facilitate this transition, we will continue to communicate *for the balance of this year* with both mailbox deliveries and posting everything on the website. We will also use the balance of the year to create a data base of e-mail addresses for all Village residents so that next year our communications will be solely by the website and via e-mail.

Our goal is simple. We want to improve communication with our residents and, at the same time, reduce our operating costs. Communications via the website and e-mail enable us to do that.

Council Appointment

We are pleased to welcome Marcia Merritt as our newest member of Village Council. Marcia was sworn in at Council's March meeting after being recommended to the

Council by a subcommittee that interviewed all candidates who expressed an interest in filling the vacancy.

Marcia, her husband and two children live on Eagle Road and have been residents of the Village for five years. She has extensive experience in project management, development and communications, and has been an active volunteer for non-profit educational institutions. We all welcome her and look forward to the skills and talents she will bring to Village governance.

Planning and Zoning – The Village’s Zoning Code

The comprehensive series of amendments to our zoning code will reviewed by Council at its April 9, 2012 meeting at 8:00 a.m. at Village Hall. There will be a public hearing for residents to comment before Council takes any action on the changes. Our outside planning consultant, David Hartt, will outline the proposed changes and answer any questions that arise.

Charter Amendment Initiative

Council and I are gratified that the Charter Amendments on the March 6th ballot governing (a) the procedure for filling a vacancy in the Office of Mayor, and (b) accommodating the appointment of a designee to act as the Mayor’s proxy at Planning and Zoning meetings when schedule conflicts prevent the Mayor’s attendance, passed by an overwhelming majority of 90% and 80% respectively. **THANK YOU!**

And just to be clear for the record, I intend to attend all such meetings as I believe that it is very important for the Mayor to actively participate in all building projects being considered in the Village. If schedule conflicts cannot be avoided and preclude my attendance at a given meeting, my proxy will be Council President Ryan Cox who has already agreed to serve when needed.

New Building Projects

Every year the Village tries to remind our residents that anybody undertaking a building, remodeling or grading project should first come to Village Hall to secure the necessary approvals ***prior to proceeding with any work***. Though some may perceive this as an inconvenience (and others may feel more strongly and think it is simply government sticking its nose where it does not belong), I can assure you that our intent is ***not*** to create unnecessary red tape, delay or other problems. We simply want to ensure that all such projects are undertaken in conformity with our existing zoning regulations and requirements so that the beauty and fabric of our Village, assets which all residents value, can be preserved.

Village Finances

Council and I continue to be actively engaged in a comprehensive analysis and forecast of the Village's revenue sources and expenses. We face significant challenges, most due to shrinking revenue streams caused by external factors over which we have no control. The good news is that we have been able to reduce our 2012 personnel expenses by almost \$75,000 from 2011 levels. As I have previously communicated, more details on this front will be forthcoming over the next several months.

As we evaluate the current state of affairs, please do not hesitate to call Village Hall – or better yet, e-mail us - with any questions or concerns that you have. We will do our best to address them. Thank you for your time and interest.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Ranallo